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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-24 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, Applicants AMEND claims 1, 4, 7, 10, 13, 16, 19, and 22.

Claims 1-3, 7-9, 13-15, and 19-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Sato et al. (US 5,424,602) in view of Lejeune (US 6,269,326). Claims 4-6, 10-12, 16-18, and 22-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Sato et al. (US 5,424,602) and Lejeune (US 6,269,326) in view of Onishi et al. (JP 2000-216450). Claims 4-6, 10-12, 16-18, and 22-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Sato et al. (US 5,424,602) and Lejeune (US 6,269,326) in view of Kawada (US 3,778,648). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections of claims 1-24.

Applicant has amended claims 1, 4, 7, 10, 13, 16, 19, and 22 to recite the step of "completing the manufacturing of the piezoelectric transformer after the steps of selecting and rejecting." This feature is supported, for example, by the paragraph bridging pages 18 and 19 of the originally filed Specification where it is noted that the properties of the piezoelectric transformer are measured before it is "mounted to a substrate, a casing, or other mounting surface." None of Sato et al., Lejeune, Onishi et al., and Kawada teach or suggest this feature.

First, as argued in the previous Amendment dated March 24, 2003 and Request for Reconsideration dated August 11, 2003, Sato et al. merely measures the characteristics of the piezoelectric transformer after the piezoelectric transformer has been manufactured. Assuming *arguendo* that measuring step of Sato et al. teaches or suggests Applicants' selecting step, Sato et al. clearly fails to teach or suggest the step of "completing the manufacturing of the piezoelectric transformer after the steps of selecting and rejecting" as recited in Applicants' claims 1, 4, 7, 10, 13, 16, 19, and 22.

Second, as argued in the previous Request for Reconsideration dated August 11, 2003, Lejeune is directed to method of testing semiconductor electronic components.

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Further, lines 9 and 10 in column 1 of Lejeune states that the semiconductor electronic components are tested "[w]hen they come off the production line." That is, the semiconductor electronic components are tested after they are manufactured. Thus, Lejeune fails to teach or suggest the step of "completing the manufacturing of the piezoelectric transformer after the steps of selecting and rejecting" as recited in Applicants' claims 1, 4, 7, 10, 13, 16, 19, and 22.

Third, as argued in the previous Request for Reconsideration dated August 11, 2003, the Examiner has failed to explain why one of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to modify Sato et al., which is directed to piezoelectric transformers, in view of a Lejeune, which is directed to testing of semiconductor devices.

Fourth, Onishi et al. is directed to a method of driving a piezoelectric transformer and clearly fails to teach or suggest the step of "completing the manufacturing of the piezoelectric transformer after the steps of selecting and rejecting" as recited in Applicants' claims 4, 10, 16, and 22.

Fifth, Kawada is directed to a driving circuit for a piezoelectric transformer and clearly fails to teach or suggest the step of "completing the manufacturing of the piezoelectric transformer after the steps of selecting and rejecting" as recited in Applicants' claims 4, 10, 16, and 22.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 7, 13, and 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Sato et al. in view of Lejeune. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of claims 4, 10, 16, and 22 under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Sato et al. and Lejeune in view of Onishi et al. and under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Sato et al. and Lejeune in view of Kawada.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Sato et al., Lejeune, Onishi et al., and Kawada, applied alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest the unique combination and arrangement of elements recited in claims 1, 4, 7, 10, 13, 16, 19, and

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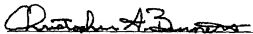
22 of the present application. Claims 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 9, 11, 12, 14, 15, 17, 18, 20, 21, 23 and 24 depend upon claims 1, 4, 7, 10, 13, 16, 19, and 22 and are therefore allowable for at least the reasons that claim 1 is allowable.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are solicited.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 50-1353.

Respectfully submitted,

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